



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

July 15, 2005

News Release

LODI IMAM AND SON TO BE DEPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES

SAN FRANCISCO – A Lodi imam and his son who were arrested last month on immigration charges in connection with an ongoing investigation have agreed to accept orders of removal to their native Pakistan.

At a hearing this afternoon before Immigration Judge Anthony Murry, Mohammad Adil Khan, 47, and his son Mohammad Hassan Adil, 19, advised the Judge they were abandoning their legal fight to remain in the United States and would return to Pakistan. The two men sought to have their original August 9 hearing date rescheduled to today to speed the removal process. Judge Murry issued the removal order at conclusion of today's hearing.

Kahn and Adil were taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) June 6 for violating the terms of their visas.

"As part of this ongoing investigation, ICE and the other agencies involved are using a range of strategies, including both criminal and administrative proceedings, to remove any potential threat to the community," said San Francisco ICE chief counsel Ronald E. Le Fevre. "ICE will not allow foreign nationals to use the United States as a haven for activities that potentially put our nation or other nations at risk."

Khan is a citizen of Pakistan and a trained Muslim cleric who holds a doctorate degree in Islamic Studies from the University of Sindh, Pakistan. He first entered the United States in April 2001 as a "Special Immigrant Religious Worker," on a non-immigrant R-1 visa, to perform religious services at the Lodi Muslim Mosque near Sacramento.

ICE officials will begin making travel arrangements immediately for the men's return to Pakistan.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.